

51. *ANAS PERSPICILLATA*, L.

52. *ANAS STELLERI*, Pall.

53. *THALASSIDROMA LEACHII*, Temm.

&c. &c.

Thus we see that birds from very different regions, including the north and south of Europe, the whole north of Asia and North America, choose this lonely rocky island as a place of rest during their migrations. Whatever may be the value of the occurrence of these isolated foreigners as regards the European fauna, the fact that they are met with here is, at all events, undeniable.

XI.—*Recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

THE completion of Mr. Gould's 'Monograph of the Trochilidæ*' is an event in the history of ornithology which a journal devoted to that science cannot pass over in silence. In the first place, we must sincerely congratulate the author on his accomplishment of so great an undertaking. Any general connected account, even a mere synopsis, of a group of natural objects embracing over 400 species is, in these days, a task of no small labour; but when the subject selected is one of such difficulty and so little previously understood as that of the Humming-birds, the amount of hard work involved in it is something of which few people, unless personally acquainted with the facts of the case, can form any idea. It is true that we must still consider the 'Birds of Australia' to be, on the whole, the most remarkable of the magnificent series of works for which the name of JOHN GOULD must ever remain famous in the annals of our science. The special journey to the Antipodes, undertaken for the collection of materials, the number and importance of the new forms and new *facts* thus brought to light, and the complete novelty of the whole subject rendered the 'Birds of Australia' one of the most extraordinary works ever produced by the unassisted efforts of a private individual. But as an account of a single

* A Monograph of the Trochilidæ or Humming-birds. By John Gould, F.R.S., &c. London, 1861. 5 vols. imp. folio.

family, the 'Monograph of Humming-birds,' not only, as we have already said, from the difficult nature of the subject, but still more from the admirable manner in which these difficulties have been overcome, equally merits most unqualified approbation. It has, we know, been objected that the money spent on the production of these splendid illustrations might have been otherwise better employed in the cause of science, that it was not necessary for scientific purposes to figure every species of a group in this elaborate and extraordinary manner. To this we reply that the subject could not have been treated otherwise, for the simple reason that in any other form it would not have repaid the cost of publication. It is well known that an illustrated scientific work is not merely a dead loss, but an enormous expense to the producer, unless rendered in some way attractive to the public at large. Besides, there can be no doubt that such works as Mr. Gould's induce many persons to take an interest in science who would otherwise never trouble their heads about anything of the sort. Let us therefore render our best acknowledgments to Mr. Gould for his courage in undertaking such a subject, and for the successful way in which he has brought his task to a conclusion. We are quite sure that he has neither spared personal labour nor grudged expense in this great work, and we are equally certain that no living individual could have produced its like.

In the Introduction to the 'Monograph of Humming-birds,' contained in the 28th number of the folio work, and likewise reprinted in 8vo by Mr. Gould for distribution amongst his friends*, the author has devoted some pages to the history of the group, their geographical distribution and general internal structure. He then recapitulates the whole of the species, introducing additional information as to many of them, and increasing the number to 416, being 56 more than are figured in the body of the work. For ourselves, we have never been able to draw the line between a species and a climatic variety, nor do we believe it is possible so to do. We therefore do not complain of Mr. Gould having given specific names to certain local forms,

* An Introduction to the Trochilidae or Family of Humming-birds. By John Gould, F.R.S., &c. London, 1861. 1 vol. 8vo.

provided it can be shown that they are invariably distinguishable by constant characters. But we must confess that, judging by the characters given in some cases, Mr. Gould appears to have occasionally drawn the line rather fine. We also rather regret that he has not used many of the generic names he has employed merely subgenerically, putting them at the head of the section of the genus to which they refer, instead of using them as the generic name for the species. We do not pretend to say that the difference between a genus and subgenus is anything more than one of degree; and it is only for convenience and facility of recollection that we advocate the latter practice.

Our correspondent Mr. Swinhoe has published a well-written and agreeable narrative of the British expedition to Peking in 1860*. As the product of the pen of so diligent a contributor to our pages, this volume claims the recognition of 'The Ibis;' for although not an ornithological work, many references to birds and other natural objects observed are introduced. We must remind our readers that Mr. Swinhoe's labours in the cause of natural science during this expedition were purely voluntary on his part, and not in any way recognized by the Government. Mr. Swinhoe tells us—

"A well-known and learned zoologist, Mr. Blyth of Calcutta, proffered his hard-earned thirty years' experience in Asiatic zoology to illumine the North-China campaign, on the part of Great Britain, with a scientific lustre; but the niggardly policy of our Government unhesitatingly rejected so noble an offer. Thus the fine opportunities presented by the success of our arms in a comparatively new field would have been entirely lost, had not the zeal of certain private individuals actuated them to devote their leisure hours to the acquirement of those facts in natural history which always form so essential a part in the geography of any country."

Since Daines Barrington published, in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1773 (vol. lxxiii. p. 249), his "Experiments and

* Narrative of the North-China Campaign of 1860. By Robert Swinhoe, &c. London, 1861. 1 vol. 8vo.

Observations on the Singing of Birds," the subject has attracted comparatively little attention. Dr. Cuthbert Collingwood's essay* is a most laudable attempt to give the matter due consideration. We entirely agree with him as to the interest and importance pertaining thereto, and congratulate him on his judicious treatment of the same. We should, however, be misleading both him and the public were we to pretend that our musical knowledge was sufficient to render worth having any criticisms in which we might indulge respecting his "Improved and Corrected Table of the Comparative Merits of British Song Birds." We therefore abstain from doing more than recording the title of this paper, which should not be neglected by any persons desirous of studying this branch of ornithology.

While French *Préfets* are memorializing their Minister of the Interior to add a clause to the Code Napoléon for the prevention of birds'-nesting, English ornithologists are encouraging the practice in this country with all their might and main. Not very long ago we published some remarks on the "Suggestions for forming Collections of Birds' Eggs," written by one of our colleagues; and in our preceding Number we noticed Mr. Atkinson's recent little book as deserving our especial commendation. Swift on the footsteps of this last comes Mr. Newman's pamphlet on 'Birds'-nesting †,' reprinted from the 'Zoologist' for the past year, which the rising generation of oologists will find exceedingly useful. It has, however, some drawbacks. The attempt to treat birds "botanically" is, as far as we know, novel, and accordingly deserves notice, though we see no particular harm in it. In a professed compilation we do not, of course, look for complete accuracy; but we must express our extreme regret that the author should only towards the conclusion have taken ad-

* "Contributions to British Ornithology—The Notes of Birds. By Cuthbert Collingwood, M.A., F.L.S., &c. From the Proceedings of the Liverpool Lit. and Philosophical Society. Read April 15th, 1861." 8vo, pp. 26.

† Birds'-nesting: being a complete Description of the Nests and Eggs of Birds which breed in Great Britain and Ireland. By Edward Newman, &c. London, 1861. (8vo, pp. 52.) Price One Shilling.

vantage of the great additions to our knowledge of the subject contained in Mr. Hewitson's *last* edition. Had he done so at the beginning, he would not have hazarded such an assertion as that "we have very slight evidence of the Golden Eagle now breeding in Britain" (p. 5)!!

'The Natural History Review,' which seems to include naturalists of all kinds in its present editorial staff, has not hitherto contributed much to our special branch of science. Nevertheless some "ornithological boulders" (if we may be pardoned the violence of the metaphor) are occasionally scattered throughout its pages; and its last number (for October 1861) contains a paper by Mr. Lubbock (entitled "The Kjökkenmøddings: Recent Geologico-archæological Researches in Denmark") on a subject highly interesting to all naturalists, the ornithological portion of which, though not occupying much space in the article itself, should not be passed unnoticed by us. Some years since, three Danish men of science, each holding a prominent position in their respective departments of learning—Forchhammer the geologist, Worsäae the archæologist, and Steenstrup the naturalist—combined to investigate some remarkable formations, respecting the origin of which wise heads had long been puzzled. Success, such as they at first could never have anticipated, crowned their labours. Mr. Lubbock's most instructive paper gives, we believe, the first account of them which has appeared in the English language. We can here only state briefly that these formations, consisting of large deposits of shells, mixed with bones and rude flint implements, have been incontestably proved to be the rubbish-heaps of the ancient inhabitants of Denmark; and hence the name by which they are now known in that country. How important to the ornithologist these relics of a former age are, may be at once seen from the fact that among the birds' bones discovered in the "kitchen-middens" are those of two species which have never been known as natives of Denmark within the historic or even the traditional period. Mr. Lubbock says:—

"The remains of birds are highly interesting and instructive. The domestic Fowl (*Gallus domesticus*) is conspicuous by its ab-

sence. It is less surprising that the two domestic Swallows of Denmark (*Hirundo rustica* and *H. urbica*), the Sparrow, and the Stork are also missing. On the other hand, fine specimens of the Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), which feeds principally on the buds of the pine, show that, as we know already from the remains found in the peat, the country was at one time covered with pine forests. Aquatic birds, however, are the most frequent, especially several species of Ducks and Geese. The Wild Swan (*Anas cygnus*, L.), which only visits Denmark in winter, is also found; but, perhaps, the most interesting of the birds whose remains have been identified is the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*, L.), a species which is now almost extinct." (p. 497.)

We may add that we believe it was this discovery of Great Auks' bones in these remarkable deposits which first drew Professor Steenstrup's particular attention to that species, and caused him to draw up the excellent contribution to its history which was referred to in our last number (*Ibis*, 1861, p. 375). It remains to be said that the triumvirate have, since 1852, presented to the Danish Scientific Society six Reports ("Untersögelser i geologisk-antiquarisk Retning") on the Kitchen-middens, which have been printed in their 'Transactions;' and to them, as well as to Mr. Lubbock's paper, we refer those of our readers who wish to know more of these interesting discoveries. That archæology and zoology reciprocally throw much light on each other cannot be doubted after the extraordinary researches of M. Boucher de Perthes in the valley of the Somme and those of M. Troyon in Switzerland, and it is much to be deplored that British antiquarians have not followed up their explorations more in the spirit of their Danish brethren.

Mr. Blyth continues his usual Reports on the zoological accessions to the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, in the only two numbers of the 'Journal' for the past year that have yet reached us. His notes on the Chinese birds sent to him for examination by Mr. Swinhoe (No. 1, p. 90 *et seqq.*) must be carefully collated with the latter gentleman's papers in this Journal, in which some of the new species, as there indicated, have been already named and described. A small series of skins from the

Philippine Islands, also sent by Mr. Swinhoe for examination, contained several novelties, amongst which was a new form of Graucaline bird, proposed to be called *Pseudolalage melanictera*. We agree with Mr. Blyth that "it is much to be regretted that Mr. Cuming's valuable collection of Philippine birds was permitted to be dispersed without any list having been published of them." It is to be wished that Mr. Cassin would give to the public the catalogue of Philippine birds he was engaged upon some time since, founded upon the rich series in the Philadelphian Academy's collection. This would supply the desideratum, and afford us better opportunity than we now have of obtaining some general notions as to the character of the Avifauna of this group of islands.

Mr. Blyth's Report in No. 2 (p. 185) contains the remarks made on exhibiting to the meeting the mounted skin of the new *Casuarus uni-appendiculatus* *. The bird had died in the Bábu Rajendra Mullik's menagerie, when probably about half-grown. Mr. Blyth says, "It entirely resembles *Casuarus galeatus* of the same age in general structure ; but the colouring of the plumage is that of the small young of *C. galeatus*, or with considerably less admixture of black than is seen in an ordinary Cassowary of the same size ; the only marked distinction consisting in the very different arrangement and predominating yellow of the bright colours of the neck, and in the single small yellow caruncle in front of the neck, in place of the two larger and bright-red caruncles of the common species. Again, the nude skin of the lower part of the neck is smooth or comparatively tense, and not tumous and wrinkled as in the other. I remark, also, in the stuffed specimen, along the medial third of the back a nude line about $\frac{2}{3}$ in. broad, parting the feathers which flow on either side. Unfortunately the body was thrown away, not even the sex having been ascertained ; but the sexes in this genus hardly differ in appearance ; nor is the bird so skilfully set up as could be wished. The *habitat* of this species of Cassowary remains to be ascertained."

The first section of the sixth and concluding part of the fourth

* Cf. 'Ibis,' 1860, p. 307.

volume of the 'Transactions' of the Zoological Society of London, which has been lately issued, contains an elaborate essay by Mr. W. K. Parker, "On the Osteology of *Balæniceps rex*." There are three large plates given, which illustrate in complete detail the osteological structure of this remarkable bird, and also a coloured figure of "his majesty" in full plumage, taken from Mr. Wolf's large water-colour drawing in the Society's portfolio. Though unsuccessful, with all the care lavished upon them, in preserving these birds alive, the Society have certainly done their best to render them, "even in their death," useful to science and to the advancement of knowledge. One of the skeletons, we understand, has been placed in the British Museum, the other in the collection of the Royal College of Surgeons. Mr. Parker's final verdict is that the Boathill is "essentially a Heron," and most nearly related to *Cancroma*, "which might be placed subgenerically to it," although it "seems as it were to have borrowed characters from the Umbre (*Scopus*)."

Those interested in the subject should also refer to Mr. Bartlett's remarks on the dermal system of the *Balæniceps*, given in the Society's 'Proceedings' (1861, p. 131).

2. FRENCH PUBLICATIONS.

The 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for the past year contains but few papers relating to our branch of science. M. Moquin-Tandon continues his "Considérations sur les œufs des Oiseaux;" and M. Hardy writes letters in criticism thereof to M. O. Des Murs. Dr. Pucheran writes some curious "Observations sur les ressemblances dans la forme du bec entre les Genres des Passereaux d'une même Faune, appartenant à des sections différentes de cet Ordre d'Oiseaux." We do not understand that this parallelism in the modification of a single organ, though certainly noteworthy, is likely to lead to any remarkable discovery.

3. GERMAN PUBLICATIONS.

Petermann's 'Geographische Mittheilungen' for January of the past year contains an important article from the pen of our correspondent Theodor von Heuglin, which we have not yet

noticed*. It is a systematic list of the Mammals and Birds of the coast of the Red Sea and Somali-land, partly derived from the observations of former travellers, Rüppell, Hemprich, Ehrenberg, and Speke, and partly from the notes and collection made by v. Heuglin himself during his several expeditions into these regions. This catalogue has been drawn up with particular reference to the range of the species, not only horizontally, but also vertically above the sea-level, and will prove of service not only to future explorers in this country, but to the general student of geographical distribution—a most important branch of natural history, generally much neglected by scientific travellers. The migration of birds within the tropics is also a subject on which very little is as yet known or understood by naturalists, and on which a continued series of observations, such as those made by von Heuglin, would no doubt throw much light.

The Red-Sea Fauna, according to von Heuglin, by no means forms a distinct zoological province, but embraces in its area parts of two different zones. The northern portion of it, taking the whole as extending from 30° to 18° north lat., is outside the boundary of the tropical rain-season, which begins at about 16° north lat., and is thus very distinct from the southern portion. The western side of this northern portion is Ægypto-Nubian in character, but, owing to the want of fresh water and vegetation, much poorer in individuals; the eastern side, embracing Arabia Petrea, is more peculiar, containing a mixture of European or Asiatic types, but overwhelmed by African species. The southern portion of the Red-Sea Fauna (*i. e.* that below the line of 16° north lat.) falls within the range of the tropical rainy season, and is so closely allied to the West-African Fauna, that but very few of the West-African types are unrepresented within it. There is, in fact, little doubt that a broad band of country, traversing Africa from coast to coast north of the equator, has as nearly uniform zoological as we believe it has botanical characters.

The total number of species of birds enumerated by v. Heuglin as appertaining to the Red-Sea Fauna is 325, namely—

* Th. v. Heuglin's *Forschungen über die Fauna des Rothen Meeres und der Somali-küste*. Petermann's Geogr. Mitth. 1861, pp. 11 *et seqq.*

Accipitres	27	Struthiones	1
Passeres	164	Gallinæ	12
Scansores	16	Grallæ	56
Columbæ	5	Anseres	44

In conclusion, characters are given of the new species discovered by v. Heuglin, most of which have already been described elsewhere. It is doubtless well known to many of our readers that this energetic traveller has started again for Africa, and is at the present moment in Dar-Four, being in command of the expedition despatched to succour, if possible, or at least to ascertain the fate of the unfortunate Dr. Vögel.

In Part viii. of the same Journal (August 1861) will be found some observations on the Vertebrates of Northern Egypt and Stony Arabia*, made by Th. v. Heuglin during the progress of his new expedition through those countries in March, April, and May of the past year. His stay in Lower Egypt having taken place during the breeding season has enabled him to procure some interesting specimens, for a list of which see p. 311. Curious is the discovery of a pair of *Podiceps auritus* breeding in the Lake of Tamieh in Faguin. "There are *no* House-Sparrows in Suez and Ain Mousa, or generally in the cities on the Red Sea."

The 'Sitzungsberichte' of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Vienna for June last contains a paper by H. A. v. Pelzeln on some new Rapacious birds of the Imperial Collection†. *Cathartes urubitinga* (the specific term being taken from Natterer's MS.) is, if we understand rightly, the Brazilian species commonly, but we believe incorrectly, identified with *Cathartes aura*. *Milvago crassirostris*, said to be from Chili, resembles *M. montanus*, but has a stronger bill and a rather broad white band extending "ab alæ flexura ad axillam." Herr v. Pelzeln does not seem to notice *M. albogularis* (Gould) or *M. carunculatus* (Des Murs), both, we believe, good species of the same section.

* Einige Bemerkungen über die Wirbelthiere des nördlichen Ægyptens und des Peträischen Arabiens, &c., von Th. v. Heuglin. Peterman's Geogr. Mitth. 1861, p. 316.

† Ueber neue und weniger bekannte Arten von Raubvögeln in der Kaiserlichen Sammlung. Von A. v. Pelzeln, Sitz. Akad. Wiss. Wien, xlv. p. 7.

Leucopternis superciliaris and *L. palliata* are both from Brazil, obtained by Natterer, as likewise *Buteo minutus*, which is, perhaps, not different from *Asturina brachyura* (Vieill.).

The report of the thirteenth annual meeting of the German Ornithological Society, held at Stuttgart in September 1860, of which we promised our readers a further notice some time ago, contains several important papers, to which students of the European Ornis should devote their attention. Of one of the most remarkable of these, from the pen of Dr. Blasius, we have already given a translation in these pages*. The same experienced naturalist has given us a few remarks upon the different species of Eagles, contained in a fine series of 99 examples, which was submitted to the meeting for their inspection by the veteran ornithologist Herr Pastor Brehm. Dr. Blasius considers the new Spanish Eagle, which was lately discovered by Dr. Reinhold Brehm of Madrid, and by him named *Aquila adalberti*, to be nothing more than *Aquila navioides*—a “species found throughout Africa, and already known as occurring incidentally in the Crimea and in Southern France.” Mr. Gurney likewise assures us that two examples of this Spanish Eagle lately obtained by him from Dr. R. Brehm are undoubtedly “*Aquila navioides* in the pale worn plumage it constantly assumes before the moult.” The regular occurrence of this Bird of prey in any part of Europe is, however, quite a new fact, for the discovery of which we are greatly indebted to Dr. R. Brehm.

Dr. Blasius tells us that he knows only of 11 good species of true Eagles existing in European collections, which he arranges as follows :

A. *Onychaëtos*, Kaup.

1. *Aquila malayensis*, Reinwardt, ex Ind. Or.

B. *Uroaëtos*, Kaup.

2. *Aquila fucosa*, Cuv., ex Nov. Holl.

C. *Pteraëtos*, Kaup.

3. *Aquila vulturina*, Daud., ex Afr. Merid.

* ‘Ibis,’ 1861, p. 292.

D. *Aquila*.

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| 4. <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> . | 7. <i>A. naevioides</i> . |
| 5. <i>A. bifasciata</i> , Gr., ex As. Centr. | 8. <i>A. clanga</i> . |
| 6. <i>A. imperialis</i> , Bechst. | 9. <i>A. naevia</i> . |

E. *Hieraetus*.

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| 10. <i>A. bonellii</i> , Temm. | 11. <i>A. pennata</i> , Gray. |
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We may remark that there are certainly two good species of Eagle to be added to this list: (1) *Aquila gurneyi*, G. R. Gray—a very distinct Eagle allied to *A. malayensis*, discovered by Mr. Wallace in Batchian (figured in P. Z. S. 1860, p. 342, pl. 169); and (2) *Aquila desmursi*, Verreaux, of Western Africa, which is best placed along with the *Hieraëti*.

Our readers who refer to this Report will notice that Mr. Darwin's theory and many other questions of the day were discussed at the meeting of this Society. They will find details on these subjects in the "Beilagen" attached to the "Bericht." Baron R. König-Warthausen's Oological Memoirs contain much that is worthy of notice, particularly in reference to the theory of the coloration of the eggs of the Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

The second and third numbers of Cabanis' Journal for 1861 contain a mass of matter interesting to ornithologists. The Editor continues his paper on the birds of Costa Rica from the collections transmitted by Hoffman and v. Frantzius. A new *Calliste* (*Callispiza frantzii*, most nearly allied to *Calliste icterocephala*) is a great discovery for Central America. We trust that Messrs. Salvin and Godman, who are now proceeding to Costa Rica, will not fail to obtain specimens of this bird for our English collections. Dr. H. A. Bernstein gives us further confirmation of the curious habits of *Buceros* in the breeding season (p. 116 *et seq.*). To Dr. Gloger's ill-natured attack upon "three English anatomists and naturalists" we believe a reply has already been prepared elsewhere; so for the present we will pass it over in silence. Poor Dr. Gloger must have fallen a victim to the Anglophobia which was so prevalent in Berlin at the time of the celebrated "Macdonald-controversy"!

4. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

The 'Proceedings' of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for 1861 (of which we have received the sheets up to p. 257) contain several papers relating to ornithology. Mr. Cassin (p. 72) calls the attention of the Academy to a new species of Goose (*Anser rossii*) from Great Slave Lake, allied to the White Geese, *A. hyperboreus* and *A. albatrus*, but smaller than either, and about the same size as the Mallard (*Anas boschas*).

In the 'Proceedings' for July last (p. 170) we find a "Monograph of the *Tringæ* of North America" by Mr. Elliott Coues—a name new to ornithologists, but not the less heartily welcome as that of a recruit to our ranks, who begins by fighting his first fight well, and against a very hard subject. In the latter part of 1860 Mr. Coues, being engaged in examining the collections made by Messrs. Kennicott and Ross on Great Slave Lake, detected what he believed to be a new Sandpiper allied to *Tringa maculata* and *T. bonapartii*. In order to describe it properly he was induced to undertake a monographic sketch of the section of the group to which it belongs. Mr. Coues considers that the *Scolopacidae* may be most naturally divided into two subfamilies instead of three, as most authors have preferred to arrange them. One of these, the *Scolopacinae*, embraces also the *Tringæ*, whilst the other is composed of the old genus *Totanus* with the toes webbed. In these views we are inclined to agree with him. The subfamily *Scolopacinae*, then, as far as regards the American species, he separates into two sections—the *Scolopaceæ* and the *Tringæ*. Of the North American species composing the latter of these groups he has given a very complete and very pains-taking account, dividing them into eight genera, namely *Micropalama* and *Ereunetes*, composing section A, in which the toes have "a decided basal web," and *Tringa*, *Calidris*, *Arquatella*, *Ancylocheilus*, *Pelidna*, and *Actodromas*, forming the more typical section B, in which the toes are cleft to the base, or show a very rudimentary membrane. The first seven genera contain each but a single North American representative; the last-named (*Actodromas*) five, which Mr. Coues divides again into two sections. The first of these, *Actodromas*, has the Little Stint of Europe

(*Tringa minuta*) for its type—a species not known in America, but there represented by *Tringa wilsoni*. At the head of the second subgenus (*Heteropygia*) stands the *Tringa bonapartii*, a species also known to British ornithologists as a straggler, and commonly, but incorrectly, called *Tringa schinzii*. We may remark here, that though Mr. Coues has carried the principle of subdivision to its utmost development, he has wisely abstained from using his new term *Heteropygia* as a generic title. Mr. Coues's new species is *Actodromas bairdii*, hitherto confounded with *A. bonapartii*, but really belonging to the first section of the genus, and to be placed between *A. minutella* (*Tringa pusilla*, Wilson) and *A. maculata*. Specimens of this bird have been obtained in Nebraska, and also in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake. Mr. Coues also considers the Dunlin of America distinct from that of Europe, and, following Mr. Cassin, calls it *Pelidna americana*. Mr. Coues is evidently a hard-working and conscientious investigator, and we have little doubt that the results he has arrived at may be relied upon.

A second paper by the same author, which will be found a few pages later in the 'Proceedings,' is entitled "Notes on the Ornithology of Labrador," and gives an account of his researches during an expedition in charge of J. W. Dodge, Esq., which visited the coast of Labrador in the summer of 1860, in order to procure for the Smithsonian Institution specimens of the birds to be found there, with their nests and eggs.

"The point reached," Mr. Coues tells us, "was Sloop Harbour, a few miles south of Little Mecattina, where we collected most of the eggs procured during the voyage. Here the *Somateria mollissima* and the *Utamania torda* were the most abundant and characteristic birds, while the *Larus argentatus*, *Uria grylle*, and *Mergus serrator* were also very numerous, all breeding on the islands in the vicinity. On the 6th of July the vessel left Sloop Harbour, and passing the Murre Rocks, where the *Uria lomvia* was breeding in immense numbers, proceeded directly to Esquimaux Bay, where the greater part of the summer was spent. Here were collected most of the land birds procured; among them the new *Ægiothus fuscescens*, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, and *Anthus ludovicianus* were very abundant; and *Pinicola canadensis* and *Turdus*

aliciæ not rare. Grouse and Ptarmigan were also met with; and I was fortunately enabled to examine an extensive breeding place of the *Mormon arcticus* (?)."

"A few days were spent at Rigolet, a station of the Hudson's Bay Company, in charge of Henry Conolly, Esq., from whom were received some valuable meteorological statistics. On the 15th of August the vessel left Esquimaux Bay and proceeded to Henley Harbour, at the northern entrance to the Straits of Belle Isle. At that date the smaller Waders generally had commenced their southern migration, and during two weeks spent there, which completed my stay on the coast, specimens of most of them were procured."

For further details we must refer our readers to Mr. Coues's paper, which contains very interesting notes on many of the species. The most important discoveries were *Turdus alicia*, "breeding abundantly;" *Saxicola ænanthe* of Europe, "one example;" and *Ægiothus fuscescens*, a new Red-poll, "abundant along the coast of Labrador."

The commencement of Mr. D. G. Elliot's Monograph of the *Pittidæ** was alluded to in our last Number. We have just received the second part of the work, of which, when we consider the disadvantages that the author has had to contend against, we cannot do otherwise than speak very favourably. The plan adopted has been to give full-sized coloured figures of all the species of the group, something after the fashion of Mr. Gould's Monographs. The figures in the first part were drawn by the late P. Oudart of Paris. In the second they are the product of Mr. Elliot's own pencil, and in spite of some criticisable defects, we like the latter the best. In the Latin characters given to each species we are also glad to notice an improvement in the second number. Those in the first part are, to say the least of it, sadly misprinted. We trust Mr. Elliot will prosecute this undertaking and bring it to a successful conclusion. The group of birds he has taken up is one of great beauty and exceeding interest. We have at present nothing later than Bonaparte's diagnoses in his

* A Monograph of the *Pittidæ*. By Daniel Giraud Elliot, F.Z.S., &c. New York, 1861. Parts 1 and 2. fol. with coloured plates.

‘*Conspectus Generum Avium*’ to refer to for the determination of the species, and Mr. Elliot’s work will be of great assistance to science in this way. When the plates are finished, we hope that a good analysis of the geographical distribution of the species will not be omitted. We may remark that *Cælogyne præcox*, belonging, as we believe, to the epiphytous *Orchidaceæ*, should not have been placed on the ground, as Mr. Elliot has depicted it in the plate of *Pitta concinna* !

Mr. J. M. Wheaton (of Columbus, Ohio) has prepared a “Catalogue of the Birds of Ohio” for the ‘Ohio Agricultural Report for 1860,’ of which we have received a separate copy through the kindness of some of our American correspondents. It follows Prof. Baird’s classification, and will be useful as a local list of names, containing likewise an appendix of notes and remarks.

The ‘Canadian Naturalist and Geologist’* is, we are glad to say, progressing very satisfactorily under the conducting care of a Committee appointed by the Natural-History Society of Montreal.

No. 4 contains a catalogue of the Birds collected and observed around Lakes Superior and Huron in 1860, by Robert Bell, reprinted from the Report of the Geological Survey for 1860. The list is somewhat meagre, and the nomenclature not always perfect ; but as regards the first point, the country, as we can affirm from personal experience, is rather poor ornithologically. Did Mr. Bell never meet with the *Tetrao phasianellus*? On the upper branches of the St. Croix river, in the outskirts of the forest, we found it tolerably abundant in 1856— and *very good to eat* !

No. 5 contains Mr. Geo. Barnston’s recollections of the Swans and Geese of Hudson’s Bay, which have already appeared in ‘The Ibis,’ and an article by Mr. Vernon on the Wood-Warblers found in the vicinity of Montreal.

* The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, and Proceedings of the Natural-History Society of Montreal. Montreal, 1861. Parts 1—5.